

EMS Administrative Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 11th, 2020, 1:00 pm
Flathead County Office of Emergency Services

Members Present: Wayne Miller, Mary Granger, Amy Vanterpool, Jordan Owen, Jacob Pitcher, Dr. Richard Briles

Others Present: Jennifer Rau, Juanita Nelson, Amanda Pettinato, Warren Davis, Linda Chambers, Amy Beick

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Wayne Miller at 1:00 pm without Dr. Briles

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Minutes: June 9, 2020 & July 1, 2020 (special meeting) minutes Both Approved

Public Comment for Items Not Listed on Agenda: None

Financial Report: Juanita Nelson reported that there was no actual financial report. They are still wrapping up numbers from 2020. The update for 2021 will be given at the next meeting. 2273 June disbursements have been made. Cash balance is 15%. 2272 percentage is unknown at this time. Juanita will have it in 2 weeks or so.

EMS Advisory Committee Report: Amy Beick reported the committee met in July and Jordan gave updates. Seven agencies were involved with 12-13 people. The 2007 EMS Survey was reviewed and had positive feedback. Topics highlighted included: increase in transport agencies, radio communications, relationships between agencies, and training. Future improvements included: a focus on training, developing a leave packet, and continuing to foster the community feeling between agencies. There was a positive attitude about the survey and it feels like progress is being made. Clarification on the request for increased scholarship monies was requested by Wayne Miller. Jordan Owen explained the need for badging and credentialing to happen in order to create classes that are appropriate.

EMS Program Manager Report: Jordan Owen updated the board on items from the EMS Manager's Report. There has been good reception to the badging and credentialing project with 98% of agencies participating. New MOUs expire in May so they don't have to be done every 6 months. Covid-19 policies have been updated on the app. Concern was brought up about access to HEPA filters. Jordan Owen said they are available to order from various vendors, Lakeside QRU is willing to share. The Patient-Refusal policy was discussed. The goal is to have one county-wide refusal policy with tools to help first responders when patient decision-making is difficult. Linda Chambers and Chris Sobin were thanked by Jordan Owen for their willingness to be part of the EMS system and for seeking to fill in the gaps between ALERT and EMS.

EMS Medical Director Report: Dr. Briles reviewed Covid-19 precautions for EMS personnel. They were pulled back in June and then re-instated in July as Covid-19 cases increased. No providers have contracted Covid-19 at work. Restrictions will continue through September and perhaps indefinitely. Dr. Briles mentioned there might be a possible medical director replacement for himself at the end of his contract next year.

EMS Agency Badging and Credential Report Out and Non-Compliance Determination: Dr. Briles is working with the agency that is non-compliant addressing their concerns and frustrations. He feels he can solve the problem using his influence and good standing with their chief. Discussion ensued regarding strategies to lead the agency into compliance and the extent of the medical director's authority. Jordan Owen mentioned that at this time the main focus is to get the EMS certifications and information. Wearing a badge is another step. It was moved by Mary Granger to table a decision on non-compliance for the EMS badging and credentialing. Jacob Pitcher seconded the motion and it was passed.

Approval of FCEMS to Fund 2 EMR Courses with BPM for Fall and Spring Seasons: The credentialing project has shown the need for an EMR level course. Jordan Owen presented information for a Fall only class, or 2 classes with one in the Fall and one in the Spring. The plan is to have the student pay something up front and then be reimbursed by the county, so that the class costs the student nothing monetarily. Jordan Owen felt it was important for students to pay something upfront to keep them engaged in the class. He will come up with language regarding the amount a student would contribute as well as the requirements for reimbursement. It was brought up that the people who participate in the class should be associated with the county EMS program as in the past some have tried to get scholarships that didn't qualify for them. Discussion was had regarding how many students could take the classes and whether preference would be given to certain agencies over others. Jordan Owen assured everyone it will be done equally and if the need for two classes in the fall is apparent then that is an option instead of postponing some students until the Spring. The motion was made to approve 2 EMR classes. The format can be either Fall and Spring or both Fall. The motion was seconded and carried.

Future Agenda Items: None

Board Member Comments: Mary Granger asked if Dr. Briles' contract was signed. It is in process.

Future Meeting Date: October 13, 2020.

Adjournment: 2:30